

Will View Efforts of St. Bernard Fishermen to Protect Marsh from Oil Disaster
May 4, 2010

WASHINGTON D.C. – Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) will tour the coastal marsh around St. Bernard Parish today via boat to view the work of local fishermen to protect their fishing grounds from the oil leak and spill. St. Bernard Parish President Craig Taffaro and Councilman-at-Large (East) Wayne Landry will join Congressman Melancon on the tour. They will inspect the boom laid so far by the volunteer boat captains and discuss the containment and clean-up efforts.

Congressman Melancon represents St. Bernard Parish and most of coastal southeastern Louisiana in the U.S. Congress. Last Saturday, Congressman Melancon traveled to St. Bernard Parish to meet with commercial and recreational fishermen involved in the oil leak containment and clean-up work. While in the Parish, Congressman Melancon also [met with Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson](#), St. Bernard Parish President Craig Taffaro, St. Bernard head of the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness John Rahim, and other local, state and federal officials to evaluate current efforts to minimize damage to Louisiana's fragile coastal marshes and fishing grounds.

Congressman Melancon has been leading efforts in Louisiana to coordinate the federal and local response to the oil leak caused by the April 20th explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil platform. Last Saturday he traveled to St. Bernard Parish to meet with commercial and recreational fishermen involved in the oil leak containment and clean-up work. He also met with EPA Administrator Jackson and St. Bernard Parish President Craig Taffaro to evaluate current efforts to minimize damage to Louisiana's fragile coastal marshes and fishing grounds.

Last Friday, Congressman Melancon traveled to lower Plaquemines Parish to meet with NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco to discuss how to minimize the impact of the oil leak on Louisiana's vital fishing industry. Earlier this week, the Congressman [contacted](#) the Secretary of Commerce and the head of NOAA's Fisheries Service urging them to prepare to direct disaster funding to Louisiana's commercial and recreational fishermen. In his letter, Congressman Melancon noted that the oil intrusion resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil rig disaster would likely damage the fragile habitats on which Louisiana's fishermen, oystermen, and shrimpers depend.

Last Friday, Congressman Melancon also [toured](#) by coast guard plane the oil sheen in the Gulf of Mexico caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil rig disaster with two Cabinet secretaries and the head of the EPA. Following the tour, the officials met with the head of BP and state and local officials involved in the response effort.

The administration visit followed a Wednesday [request](#) from Congressman Melancon that Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar immediately review the current response and containment efforts to the oil rig leak. In his letter, Congressman Melancon urged the Cabinet secretaries to evaluate how the containment and clean-up efforts could be accelerated in prevent the oil from damaging Louisiana's fragile

coastline and fishing grounds.

The Deepwater Horizon platform was located 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana's Third Congressional District.

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